

Filed for intro on 02/03/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 442
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ms. Dorothy Williams for her laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body honor those persons who through their personal endeavors are credits to their country, their families and communities, and to this state, and

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals who forgo their own personal interests in order to serve their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dorothy Williams, of Memphis, is one such outstanding individual who has performed above and beyond the call of duty in order to comfort and help a child desperately in need; and

WHEREAS, Travis Butler, a nine-year-old Memphian, lost his mother under tragic circumstances and had no father in his life; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Williams did not hesitate to take action after hearing of Travis' heartrending situation; Ms. Williams and Ms. Jules Benson established a trust fund for young Travis Butler with the help of Mr. Brad Bishop of NBC Bank; and

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WHEREAS, her help did not stop there; she, along with Mayor W.W. Herenton, Senator Roscoe Dixon, and members of the Memphis Police Department, held a fundraiser for Travis on December 18, 1999 that raised \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, her selfless efforts have resulted in an amazing \$100,000 from giving citizens that were touched by young Travis Butler's story; and

WHEREAS, a truly humble woman, Dorothy Williams shrugs off her hero status, although she has received many worthy accolades for her compassion; and

WHEREAS, she was given a trip to New York City and appeared on the "Sally Jesse Rapheal Show", where Sally deemed her as one of "Sally's Angels" as a result of the amazing story; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Chicago, Ms. Williams is the only daughter of two profoundly Christian parents who instilled in her a deep sense of caring and kindness; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from Englewood High School, and further pursued her educational goals at Merritt College in Oakland, California where she studied Public Relations in Marketing Advertisement; and

WHEREAS, while in California, she worked for Motown Record Corporation and subsequently moved to Memphis where she enrolled at LeMoyne-Owen College and studied Journalism; and

WHEREAS, she appreciates the value of education; she continued to study at Shelby State Community College in Office Administration, and soon thereafter studied Corporate Law at Bryant-Stratton University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Williams began working in administration at a number of Memphis radio and television stations; in 1995, she began her career at WLOK-AM 1340 where she is the News and Public Affairs Director and can be heard on Memphis' #1 radio talk show, "Memphis On The Air"; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Ms. Williams was fittingly recognized for her impeccable character and was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Women in America; she has received numerous other awards including, Broadcast Journalist of the Year by the Crittendon County NAACP, the Christian Women in Radio award, and the Sisterhood award from Sisters Helping Sisters; and

WHEREAS; her commitment and spirit have been further praised by being awarded a Living Legend Award in Broadcast Journalism from the Million Man March Committee, and the Woman of Wisdom Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women; and

WHEREAS, she is a devout and valued member of the Cummings Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Williams is most grateful for the love and encouragement she shares with her children and grandchildren; she is the loving mother of two and grandmother of three; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Williams for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Ms. Dorothy Williams for her laudable service and compassion for Travis Butler. We offer our thanks for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.